



June 1998



Nebraska Task Force - I

Upcoming Training Events

The NETF-1 K-9 training sessions will be the third Saturday of each month at the Lincoln Fire Department Training Center located at 3rd & South Street from 8:00am - 4:00pm. These training sessions are a great time to observe other dog/handler teams, take ADVANTAGE of the NETF-1 trainers expertise, get ideas on what, where and with who you can train in between monthly sessions.

JUNE TRAINING (held over from last month's issue)

by Willy Grundherr

"What FEMA Search Team Managers should know about the capabilities of well trained and tested disaster dog/handler teams". It includes the history of the development of the modern disaster dog/handler dog team concept with a few slides on the five missions of the Swiss Disaster Dog Teams.

For the training here are the following suggestions:

- Each handler should bring a favorite toy of his dog, we need it to reward the dog at the end of each alert / search exercise (only for those dogs who like to retrieve).
- We need a lot of food rewards for our dogs (only usable and very effective for dogs who like to eat). My preferred food is stew meat cut in smaller pieces. We need a cooler for the meat and we need some small containers for the meat. We do not take open meat in the alert place as the dog would get used to alert for the meat. We

also need one or two chop sticks we use to feed or tease the dog from inside the hiding place (alert hole or rubble).

- We also need various types of material to cover up the alert hole (vertical or horizontal).
- We need somebody with a note pad to take notes on the performance of every dog in every exercise.

- We also need to write down the order of the dog/handlers who are going to work.
- Only one dog is worked at any given time, the next dog will be ready to start working after the previous dog has completed its work.
- The performance of each team will be discussed after completion of the exercise.
- We do not plan to do any work on the obstacles or practice the directional control, unless there is a strong demand for it.
- We like to have an alert hole cover with a half moon opening at the circumference of the cover. We call this the "Alert Cover".
- We need some powder puffers or surveyors tape.

Here are some general comments on the training:

- We will concentrate on the alert and search aspect of disaster dog training.
- First, we like to see an alert exercise of every team, how they have been doing it and look at the problems of each team.
- After the first round we start all over again and work on the main problems of each team or if there are not any such problems we start with using variation in the alert problem.
- We are very strong believers in the dog showing a strong penetration behavior when alerting. I will explain the reason for this during the seminar. In many cases we even open up the alert hole and let the dog penetrate all the way to the hidden helper.
- We are going to spend some time training the helpers. It is a vital function for training of the alert behavior and we normally use the most experienced dog handlers for that.
- Over the three days of the seminar we are going to move from the alert hole to the perimeter of the rubble and then onto the rubble, depending on the performance of each dog.
- We are constantly going to train even the handlers.
- For the best teams we will be searching for unknown hidden victims to teach the handler to observe his/her dogs.
- If we have time we will talk a little bit about search strategy and some tips for the FEMA tests.

Canine Bulletin NETF-I

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Calendar of Events

June 20 Category Testing, East Coast Visitors

June 22 Demo for Pets, People and
Professions Camp (4-H group)

Calendar of Canine Training for 1998

June 20	3rd & South/8am	*October 10&11	T.B.A.
July 18	NETF-1 in Missouri	November 21	NETF-1 in Missouri
August 15	3rd & South/8am	*December	NO monthly session
September 19	Outstate in Nebraska		

Outstate NETF-1 Members in Lincoln = Outstate Members of NETF-1 will be in Lincoln to work their dogs. These members are very knowledgeable some have been deployed, so take advantage of this time to ask questions and get to know them. Observing the more advanced dog/handler teams can also help give you ideas for training your dog.

NETF-1 in Missouri = Members of the Nebraska Task Force are invited to attend the MOTF-1 training session in Columbia, Missouri. HOWEVER, the most advanced dogs will be worked first. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE that you will have the opportunity to work your dog on the Missouri equipment.

TRAINERS - Monica Barger, Laura Elwess, Melody Jensen, Vicky Moser, and Dian Quist Sulek.

TRAINING LOGS - Training logs must be completed and turned in each month. Your training hours provide important documentation when the Nebraska Task Force (NETF-1) is "audited" by FEMA. For those who are more than two months behind in submitting these logs we will be giving you a reminder call.

Training Logs Submission Address

Mail or Drop Off Logs to:
Sandy Yost
Lincoln Fire Department
1801 "Q" Street
Lincoln, Ne. 68508

Member Updates

NETF-1 K9 handler Vickie Senters and K9 Kelly were called to look for a four-wheeler rider who was lost in the rugged Ozark hills in May. They assisted in the search as the only K9 team. The 410-pound victim was found by foot searchers; however, Vickie and Kelly located a "lost" foot searcher.

GREAT JOB!! Vickie and Kelly

Be sure to read July's issue of the Canine Bulletin, it will have all the information about NETF-1's recent deployment.

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